

THE INDEPENDENT

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SAYS ELIZABETH CITY
SCHOOLS NEED \$500,000U. S. Commissioner of Education Says Present
Public School Plant is a Crime Against
Childhood

Elizabeth City needs to spend not \$250,000 but \$400,000 to \$500,000 in immediate improvements of its public school system, according to Dr. P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education. Dr. Claxton and two of his assistants were in Elizabeth City Saturday and Sunday looking over the public school system. Dr. Claxton voluntarily came in person to Elizabeth City to look things over as soon as he was advised that Elizabeth City would invest \$1,500 in a survey of its public school system. The fact that the town will spend that sum to definitely ascertain just what its educational requirements are convinced the Commissioner that Elizabeth City is a worth while town and he came to Elizabeth City to look things over for himself. He brought with him his Assistant, Dr. Wm. T. Bowden and the Bureau's specialist in social and industrial conditions, Mrs. Alice Barrows Fernandez. These three eminent educational authorities found nothing flattering to say about Elizabeth City's school equipment.

Dr. Claxton and his staff condemned the very High School Building in which the city has been inclined to manifest some pride. He said the High School building was designed by an architect who had absolutely no grasp of school architecture and that a full third of the money invested in that building had been wasted. He found the building deficient in light, heat and ventilation. Hundreds of children are ruining their sight poring over their text books at desks far from any window or other natural light. Where artificial light is supplied in some rooms, the lights are plain, glaring, unshielded electric lights, ruining the eyes of the children. In one basement room scores of small children were subjected to the dangers of rheumatism and other ills.

Under the compulsory education law of North Carolina parents are compelled to send their children to such school rooms. Dr. Claxton told members of the Board of Education here that if he lived in Elizabeth City he would go to the State courts for relief and force the building of adequate school rooms.

Dr. Claxton's Ideas

While Dr. Claxton does not attempt to anticipate what the forthcoming school survey will call for, he is very positive in his generalization of the city's needs. He believes the city should acquire the Geo. M. Scott property adjoining the site of the present High School Building and erect thereon a modern high school building.

Enough ground should be purchased to provide abundant play ground facilities for the lower grades.

All buildings should be provided with ample laboratory and work room space so as to provide vocational education and manual training for all the pupils.

Adequate buildings for the colored school should be erected, one in the southern part of the city and one in the northern part of the city, and these should have ample play grounds.

And instead of keeping the children shut up in certain rooms to pore over text books six hours a day, Dr. Claxton would lengthen the school day and inaugurate what is known as the work-study-play system of public school education. The time of the children would be divided accordingly, every child being so many hours a day in the work rooms or laboratories and so many hours for play, both work and play being under competent instructors.

By the work-study-play system the number of class rooms required is considerably curtailed.

Dr. Claxton thinks the city should spend not a cent more than it is absolutely necessary to spend on building improvements, but he thinks present requirements will fall not short of \$400,000. He thinks \$500,000 would be more like it.

Education and Religion

Dr. Claxton spoke at First Methodist Church Sunday morning and there stressed the educational needs of the city as he had found them. Among other things he said:

"There is immediate need in Elizabeth City for more and better school buildings, and the people will be asked to vote bonds for the erection of these buildings. When they come to do this they should remember that by doing it they are only permitting their children to borrow from their future selves in order that they may have better opportunities for education, and that they

(Concluded on Page 10.)

TO PUT 10,000
ACRES IN SPUDSSpectacular Development Pro-
jected in Perquimans Coun-
ty Involving Idle Lands

This newspaper learns upon indisputable authority that a syndicate of capitalists interested in the development of North Carolina cut-over timber lands has just purchased 10,000 acres of deforested lands in Perquimans county, between Hertford and the Chowan county line.

Soil experts have examined the lands in question and pronounced the soil excellent for early Irish potatoes and the owners plan to clear and drain the entire acreage at an early date and grow potatoes.

The deal is one of far reaching importance to Perquimans and to this entire section. It not only means the reclamation of thousands of acres of idle lands in Perquimans, but will make Perquimans a factor in the early Irish potato deal in this section. Perquimans is a corn, cotton, peanut and tobacco county and has paid little attention to the potato.

This newspaper expects to have full particulars of this big development for its readers at an early date.

HOW'D YOU LIKE
TO DIE LIKE THIS?And What's Wrong With a Com-
munity in Which a Case
Like This Occurs

With church bells pealing all around him and one church not a stone's throw away, Chas. Sawyer, 28 years old, penniless and away from home, died without medical attention after eight weeks of intense suffering; his death occurring at the home of his brother-in-law, A. L. Phelps at No. 24 Glade St. Thursday night, July 22.

The story of Chas. Sawyer's death is one of the saddest stories in the social history of Elizabeth City. He came to Elizabeth City a sick man about two months ago to seek relief for rheumatism. He had heard there was one here "who cured by the laying on of hands." He was taken seriously ill upon his arrival here. A physician who attended him found him at that time hopelessly ill with rheumatism and bowel consumption. The physician decided he couldn't do anything for him and left him to his fate, making no report whatever to the Red Cross or any charitable organization.

The people in whose home Sawyer was bed ridden are poor people and comparative strangers in the city. They knew about the Red Cross, but thought one had to be a member of it to receive any benefits. They had belonged to the Methodist Church at Gum Neck but had never moved their membership to Elizabeth City and the churches here hadn't paid much attention to them.

Mrs. Sallie Boettcher, Secretary of the local chapter of the Red Cross heard about the Sawyer case Thursday morning, July 22. She investigated and found the man in a most pitiful condition. She immediately called in a nurse, but it was too late to do him any good. He had lain in one position in bed with his limbs knotted and drawn from the rheumatism till the flesh of his back had rotted away, leaving his very ribs and arteries exposed. The bed clothing was foul with stains and filth. The room swarmed with flies, attracted by the odor of his decaying body. Chas. Sawyer died that night. The Red Cross had found him too late. The churches had not found him at all.

The Red Cross purchased a coffin for the remains and employees of the Elizabeth City Iron Works & Supply Co. made up a purse of \$28 which they gave to the little widow of the dead man, who had come to him from her home in Gum Neck, but didn't know what or how to do. The dead man leaves this wife 21 years old and two small children. She told the neighbors that all her material wealth consisted of \$30 and a cow. But she was a proud little woman and did not want to accept the money that was tendered her. She said she could sell her cow and pay for the coffin, and she would manage to get along somehow.

The remains of Chas. Sawyer were taken to his home at Gum Neck last Friday night.

Who is to blame for this horrible thing in this churchy community? The answer probably would include every one of us.

BAPTISTS AND METHODISTS
EXCURSIONS TO VA. BEACH

There will be at least two railroad excursions from Elizabeth City to Virginia Beach in August. The First Methodist Sunday School will run an excursion on Thursday, August 5. The First Baptist Sunday School will run an excursion on Tuesday, August 31.

The railroad company is stingy with coaches this year and will not give either excursion more than six coaches this year. The First Baptists say they can fill six coaches with their own crowd, and indicates that few tickets will be available for outsiders.

Got There With a Line of Talk



D. WALTER HARRIS

THIS then is D. Walter Harris, the City Tailor. When Balzac was writing his *Comedie Humaine* he would have taken Walter Harris instead of the illustrious Gaudissart for his type of a salesman. Walter is the most versatile salesman in Elizabeth City. His specialty is salesmanship. Don't go into his place to inquire the price of a suit of clothes if you don't want to be sold, because you will never be happy without that suit after Walter gives you a song and dance. And he has as many different lines of talk as there are Arabian Nights tales, which is a thousand and one and then some supplementary tales. Walter Harris started in the tailoring business in Elizabeth City in 1909; started in a hole in the wall with a tape line and a book of samples. He made it his business to find out the peculiarities of form and taste of every well dressed fellow in town. He soon knew just what every fellow in town wanted and he proceeded to show them what he knew they wanted. He knows just when any given fellow will be ready for a new suit and just what sort of suit he wants. That's the secret of his success. And he is a success. Walter Harris has the finest tailoring establishment in eastern North Carolina to-day. His shop would be a credit to any city of 25,000 inhabitants.

BIGGEST STILL
IN PASQUOTANK300 Gallon Outfit in Operation on
River Four Miles From
Elizabeth City

One of the biggest illicit stilleries ever discovered in Pasquotank county was found by U. S. Inspector C. H. Jenkins and his men last Friday. The still was what is known as a steam plant and its capacity was 300 gallons a day. The parties who are suspected as owners and operators of the plant were not captured. There was no one around the plant when the revenue men waded in to it.

And they had to wade into it. It was located in a swamp on Pasquotank River, near the old Sawyer Ferry, about four miles from Elizabeth City. It was about 300 yards from the river and pretty well concealed.

The plant had just been in operation and the officers found on the premises 30 gallons of corn whiskey and 1,500 gallons of corn meal beer. There were three empty 100 lb. sugar bags hanging in a shed, that looked as if they had just been emptied. The revenue men said that just about 300 lbs. of sugar was required in the manufacture of that 1,500 gallons of meal beer.

The officers know the men who owned this big still, but the men had been warned of the approach of the officers and kept away from the still. It is hard to make a case against these stillers if they are not caught with the goods on them.

Following the Pasquotank raid Inspector Jenkins and his men made a break into the Moyock section of Currituck county Saturday and captured a still of about 75 gallons daily capacity and arrested N. G. Saunders of that place in whose home the still was found. Saunders was placed in jail here pending the October term of the Federal Court, in default of \$500 bond.

The same officers looked for a still believed to be in operation in the vicinity of Burnt Mills, Camden County, but found only two gallons of liquor in jugs hidden in the weeds back of the home of B. C. Allen, a resident of that place. Allen was arrested under the Volstead Act and bound over to the October term of the Federal Court. He gave bond in the sum of \$500.

INSYDE TYRES SAVE MONEY

Stop! You Automobile Owner! You're wasting money by not using INSYDE TYRES. INSYDE TYRES are absolutely guaranteed to be blow-out proof and prevent 90 per cent of all punctures. Double tire mileage and cut tire costs in half by inserting a set of INSYDE TYRES to-day. Get in touch with me to-day. Dealers and sub-agents wanted.

JOHN S. CARTER, R. F. D. 5.
Elizabeth City, N. C.
p-jy-30-1t

MR. WOODWORTH
WANTS DIVORCENorfolk Lawyer Files Suit Against Wife
Who Was Once Social Leader
Here

An action for divorce, of unusual interest to Elizabeth City society, was instituted in the courts of Norfolk county last week when W. S. Woodworth filed suit for absolute divorce from his wife who was Mrs. Mary Guirkin of this city prior to her marriage to Mr. Woodworth in 1914.

W. S. Woodworth is a well known Norfolk lawyer with offices at 430 Main St., in that city. His home is at Wilmouth Beach. Mrs. Woodworth was formerly the wife of the late Chas. Guirkin of Elizabeth City and one of the city's most beautiful women. After the death of her husband Mrs. Guirkin spent some of her time at Virginia Beach and there she met Woodworth and marriage followed a lively courtship. It was rumored here soon after the marriage that the couple were not happily mated. In February 1919 Mrs. Woodworth left her husband and effectively concealed her residence from him for several months.

Woodworth makes many sensational allegations in his petition for divorce and names a Mr. Greenberg, a government employee, of Norfolk, as co-respondent. Mrs. Woodworth, it is alleged has been living at 420 W. Bute St., Norfolk under the name of Mrs. A. Guirkin. Greenberg boarded at the same address.

COMMISSIONER CLAXTON
ON METHODIST ARCHITECTURE

After examining the Primary School Building of the Public School System in Elizabeth City, U. S. Commissioner of Education P. P. Claxton wanted to know the history of the building. He was told that it was originally built for a Methodist College. "I thought so," said Commissioner Claxton; "Methodists display little knowledge of earthly architecture; they are more interested in the architecture of their mansions in the skies." Asked if he himself were not a Methodist? he replied: "Yes, I belong to the Methodist Church of God; I believe you Elizabeth City folk belong to the Methodist Church South of God."

Hathaway Says

If you wear glasses, have your eyes and glasses both examined from time to time, and go to the place where you can afford to pay a reasonable price for real professional work. Remember your eyes are your bread-winners. Take care of them.

You have your teeth examined twice a year. Why not your eyes? They are more important.

Dr. J. D. Hathaway
Optometrist
Phone 999 Bradford Bldg.

SEEKING TO AMEND THE
DISTRICT HIGHWAY ACTMay Abandon Hard Surface Road Plans For Less
Expensive Type of Road to
StartTHE INDEPENDENT
AT 40 CENTS A YEAR

Had you stopped to think about it just that way? Your dollars are now worth about 40 cents. They are probably never will be so cheap again. By joining THE INDEPENDENT'S 500 CLUB, paying in ten dollars now, you can get THE INDEPENDENT ten years. Think of it, ten years for a forty cent dollar a year! Your subscription on this ten year plan will go into permanent improvements for this newspaper, assuring you a bigger, more substantial and better newspaper all the time. Time was when you used to do more money and buy worthless stock to keep a newspaper going here. If you didn't have THE INDEPENDENT here to-day you would be putting up money to get a good paper. A ten year subscription at the ridiculously low price of \$10 is the biggest thing I have ever asked you to do for THE INDEPENDENT. Are you with me?
—W. O. SAUNDERS.

Hon. Chas. Whedbee, Chairman of the Northeastern North Carolina District Highway Commission was in Elizabeth City Wednesday and in conference with Representative W. O. Saunders a plan has been suggested by which the proposed intercounty highway from Chowan county to the Virginia state line may be realized.

Under an act of the General Assembly of 1919, introduced by Senator M. W. Ferebee and popularly known as the Ferebee Bill, a special road district was created, composed of the counties of Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Chowan. A commission representative of these five counties was created and authorized to build a hard surfaced road from the Chowan county line near Edenton to the Virginia line near Northwest, via Hertford, Elizabeth City, Camden, Shawboro and Moberly.

The Ferebee bill provided that one half the cost of the proposed road should be borne by state and federal aid, one fourth by abutting property owners and one fourth by the district. The district's fourth of the cost, estimated at \$500,000 to be met by a bond issue of \$500,000. A tax of 10 cents on the \$100 of all real and personal property valuations in the five counties was levied to provide for interest on and retirement of the bonds.

A period of eighteen months has elapsed since the Ferebee bill became a law and not a lick of work has been struck on the proposed road. The main obstacle in the path of the District Highway Commission is the utter uncertainty of getting state and federal aid. Another obstacle has been inability to sell the district's bonds because the tax levy was not high enough to satisfy prospective bond buyers.

But even if the bonds had been sold, giving the Commission \$500,000 to work with, that sum of money would not have covered more than a fourth of the cost of an eighteen foot cement road over the proposed route. And still there is no assurance of any substantial aid from the State Highway Commission.

This newspaper has contended and still believes that if the Ferebee District Highway is built it will have to be built by the counties involved, solely at the expense of the counties, without a dollar of state or federal aid. On the basis of a total cost of two million dollars for the road for five counties, Pasquotank would pay something like four tenths, or around \$800,000 for that road. This newspaper does not believe that the tax payers of this county are willing to assume such an obligation right at this time.

Saunders Suggests Plan

It has been known for some time that the Ferebee Bill will have to be amended, if possible at the Special Session of the General Assembly in August. What amendments can be made that will assure the building of the road? Chairman Whedbee's mission to Elizabeth City Wednesday may have been to feel out the Representative from this county with a view of ascertaining what amendments the Pasquotank Representative would stand for. Mr. Whedbee has never made the mistake of assuming that W. O. Saunders was in any way opposed to the District Highway.

Mr. Saunders suggested a plan to Mr. Whedbee which seemed to meet with Mr. Whedbee's approval and from which some agreement can be reached and the proposed highway realized. It is Saunders' idea that the plan to build a hard surfaced road be abandoned until some future time and the District Highway Commission concern itself at present with a less expensive type of road which would be made the foundation for a heavy traffic concrete road to be built when more money is available.

Nothing less than the most expensive type of cement construction should be considered in the construction of a hard surfaced road over the route indicated because the opening of such road will be an invitation to such a stream of traffic as this section has never dreamed of. Five and ten ton motor trucks will be thrown upon the road in the handling of farm produce and merchandise of all kinds between Hertford, Edenton, Elizabeth City and Norfolk.

Abolish Toll Bridge

It would be suicidal to build such a road on the foundation now available. A good road bed should be provided before a single yard of concrete has been put down. It is the opinion of your Representative that the District Highway Commission should proceed with the expenditure of \$500,000 and build a sand, clay and gravel road as a foundation for the road to come. This road would admirably serve the traffic needs of this section for the next two or three years.

And before beginning the construction of this foundation road the District Highway Commission should make the physical connection over the Pasquotank River at or near Elizabeth City, acquiring the present toll bridge or constructing a more durable and satisfactory bridge at some other point near Elizabeth City. Out of its funds the

(Concluded on Page 10.)

KILLING LOOKS
LIKE ACCIDENTCoroner Corroborates Pipkin's
Account of Fatal Shooting
Here Wednesday
Night

Jesse Pipkin, a young white man employed as a cook at the Pasquotank County chain gang, shot and killed Charles Hooker, a youth of 18, with a revolver about 10 o'clock Wednesday night. The shooting seems to have been an accident.

The shooting occurred near the Elizabeth City Cotton Mills. Hooker was asking Pipkin about his work at the Convict Camp and wanted to see the gun Pipkin carried. Pipkin reached into an inside pocket and pulled out an old revolver. He snapped it and it did not fire. He passed it to Hooker and Hooker took it from his hand. Pipkin's finger was still in the trigger guard. The gun went off and the bullet entered Hooker's right lung. He died before medical aid could be summoned.

Pipkin immediately gave himself up to the authorities telling the story as it is told here, which story was corroborated by the Coroner's report Thursday morning. Pipkin will be given a preliminary hearing in the Recorder's Court Saturday morning. No bond was required for his appearance.

TURNED DOWN A HOME,
NOW LYING IN JAILSamarcand Manor Didn't Look Good to
Ethel Parker Till She Saw
Inside Jail

Ethel Parker, an 18 year old white girl who declined to go to Samarcand Manor, the state institution for wayward girls, is now begging for admission to that institution and can't get in. She is in the Pasquotank County jail, which is anything but a reform institution.

The Parker girl was tried here on a charge of prostitution last July and the court then offered to send her to Samarcand Manor and give her a chance. She refused to accept the commitment and took an appeal to the Superior Court, giving bond for her appearance. After giving bond she left town, leaving an uneasy bondsman. A few days ago she came back to town and her bondsman turned her over to the Court, Judge Spence tried this week to get her into Samarcand Manor upon her own request, but that institution is overcrowded now and there is no room for her. She probably will have to remain in jail until the fall term of Superior Court and it is probable that the Superior Court will not know what to do with her.

PRESIDING ELDER KNOWS
WHERE THE EATING'S GOOD

Rev. G. T. Adams, formerly Presiding Elder of the Elizabeth City District, M. E. Church South, was a visitor to Elizabeth City this week. He had slipped away from his work at Goldsboro to spend a few days on Roanoke Island with his old friend Tom Creaf of that place. Dr. Adams likes Tom and his family mighty well; and he also likes that salt air of Roanoke Island, the black figs, the soft crabs and the fish that are never more than two or three hours from the sea to the table. And Dr. Adams looked fit to enjoy all the good things coming to him when he passed thru the city on the way to Roanoke Tuesday morning.

MEETING AT COINJOCK

Rev. C. B. Mashburn, former pastor of the Currituck circuit of Christian churches, was in Elizabeth City yesterday enroute to Coinjock where he will begin a revival meeting, Wednesday, Aug. 4. Mr. Mashburn is now located at Ellenton, S. C.